

Fighting to bring back the shijimi clams to their natural habitat. Eco-system re-enriched with EM Technology shows a 5-fold jump in clam catch in 3 years.



Osaka Bay and the many rivers linked to it used to be teeming with *shijimi* clams (*corbicula japonica*). These small clams are often used in making miso soup. However, the land reclamation in the bay area during the period of rapid economic growth also led to the sharp decline of many aquatic creatures, gravely impacting the livelihood of many fishermen. These fishermen looked for many ways to solve the water pollution.

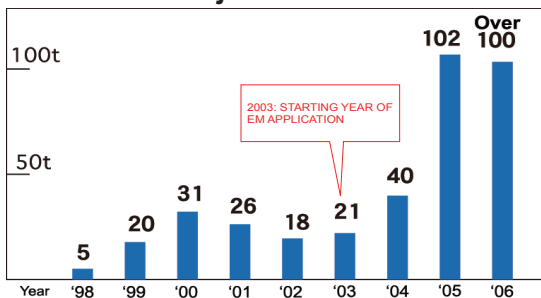
The Osaka City Fishermen's Cooperative decided to use EM Technology and officially launched their environmental cleanup project in 2003. Their goals are as follows:

1. Bring back the lost aquatic creatures
2. Improve the water creatures' habitat
3. Understand nature's purifying potential

The cooperative dynamically uses EM-based techniques in the urban river areas of Neya, Dotomburi, Kanzaki, and Yodo which all flow into Osaka Bay. Their efforts led to the return of the *shijimi* clams and marked reduction of the sludge and foul smell.

The clam habitat continue to expand and the annual catch continue to increase. Their catch per year is shown in the graph below. The cooperative continues in their fight to rejuvenate the aquatic life in Osaka Bay for future generations.

■ Yodo River *shijimi* clam annual catch



■ From Sankei Newspaper (9/19/06)



漁獲量が増えている淀川産のシジミ。籠甲色の貝殻が特徴という＝大阪市此花区の大阪市漁協



The cooperative is developing their own brand: "Naniwa no Bekkou" shijimi clams. Many of their customers have commented that their clams have a great taste and stay fresh longer than those from other areas. The work of the cooperative has been featured in various mass media.

■ AEM application points at rivers leading to Osaka Bay

Application points for AEM at the rivers leading to Osaka Bay are indicated in the map. The red areas in the map show the heavily urbanized river basin. AEM is applied both from the river banks and on the water surface by boat.

AEM application photos (counterclockwise): Shirinashi River, Kanzaki River, Yodo River



■ Using AEM for cleaning school pools

After using EM, dirt do not stick as much in the pool, making cleaning quick and easy. The amount of detergent used has also been greatly reduced, making it safer for the students cleaning the pool. The EM microbes flushed out together with the pool water also give a cleaning effect to the rivers and eventually the bay.

